

# Allegheny National Forest Native Plant Program - Banking on the Future

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# ANF Native Plant Materials Program

## FY06 – First Year

- Accomplishments included: hosting a Native Plant Workshop. Mark Fiely Plant Specialist from Ernst seed company, Robert Karrfalt Director of National Seed Lab and April Moore were the presenters.



# ANF Native Plant Materials Program

**FY07, FY08, FY10**

- Construction of Native Plant Pollinator Gardens at former Supervisor's Office, Buckaloons recreation area, Birdsall Eddy SU area, Marienville District Office.
- Met with/discussed the need for native plant materials with local nurseries, chain stores including Walmart.

Birdsall Eddy



# **ANF Native Plant Materials Program**

## **Current Status of NPM with regard to locally available native plant products:**

Some materials are available from:

- Ernst Seed company – seed mixes, bare root material (limited species).
- Sylvania and Audubon nurseries – Pittsburgh location (4 hr drive).
- Hilltop nursery – new company providing limited species of warm season grasses with local ecotypes.
- Some seeds have been collected from ANF plantings – FY11 expanded collection – provides minimal amount used for small areas.

# **ANF Native Plant Materials Program**

- Forest Programs that use native plant materials: timber – reseeding roads/landings, transportation – road construction, decommissioning, pit expansion/reclamation, wildlife opening creation/maintenance, recreation – disturbed sites.

# **ANF Native Plant Materials Program**

- Forest Programs that need to incorporate using native plant materials: special use permits: as they are renewed include BMPs for non-native invasives as well as native plant material use.

# ANF Native Plant Materials Program

- Where the program needs to go:
  - Continued work with Ernst Seed company and other growers on species availability, amounts produced each year, planting conditions and monitoring.
  - Share monitoring information with PA DCNR – BOF: use of native materials for oil and gas development.
  - Work with DEP – oil and gas management act on updating required species for E&S plans – currently includes invasives.
  - Continued education/outreach with local suppliers on native plant material definition and use and the impacts of invasive horticultural species.

# ANF Native Plant Materials Program

- Where the program needs to go: Impediments
  - Lack of permanent staff time to do education/outreach.
  - Lack of permanent staff time to planting condition assessment and monitoring 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years.
  - Supply and demand of native materials versus profit margin for local nurseries.



# Partners

- Ernst Seed Company
- Vascular Plant Technical Committee – outreach for the availability of native plant materials. E.g. oil and gas development on PA DCNR State BOF lands.
- Audubon
- Sylvania natives
- Hilltop nursery
- State BOF nursery
- Toumey
- Local Garden Clubs